

DETECTION OF NON-VIRAL ORGANISMS WITH SRP RNA**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 The present invention provides rapid detection methods that detect virtually all non-viral organisms, from a broad to a narrow spectrum. More particularly, the present invention provides SRP RNA nucleic acid probes and methods of using such nucleic acid probes for the rapid, sensitive detection of non-viral organisms such as bacteria, fungi, and protozoa. Using the detection methods of the present invention, major non-viral groups such 10 as bacterial, fungi, and protozoa, as well as specific species, can be identified in samples. In addition, kits for use in carrying out the methods of the present invention are provided.

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